

REMARKS

This application, as amended herein, contains claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-20, 22-26, 28-35 and newly added claims 36-39. Claims 7, 13, 21 and 27 have been cancelled.

Support for new claims 36-39 may be found in the specification, on page 4, lines 7-19, and in original claims 31 and 33.

By amendment herein, claims 9, 15, 17, 23 and 30 have been amended to delete the word "substantially". It is thus submitted that these claims are now definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 112.

By amendment herein, the recitations of claims 7 and 13 have been included in claim 1. Further, the recitations of claims 21 and 27 have been included in claim 19. The dependencies of selected dependent claims have been amended to be consistent with the cancellation of claims 7 and 21. Further, claims 31-35 now depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. In view of the indication of allowability of claims 13 and 27, it is respectfully submitted that of the claims that were rejected, all that remain are now in a condition for allowance.

New independent claim 36 is directed to a method for depositing ruthenium on a substrate and recites using atomic hydrogen plasma to cause a high concentration of nucleation sites to be formed on the substrate, and using molecular oxygen for atomic layer deposition. It is


respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the combination of steps recited in claim 36. Thus, examination and allowance of claim 36 is respectfully requested.

It is further submitted that the recitations of new dependent claims 37-39 are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Thus, examination and allowance of claim 37-39 is also respectfully requested.

In view of four claims having been canceled, four new claims having been added, and independent claim 31 being changed to a dependent claim, no additional claim fee is required.

A check for \$1,020 for a three-month extension of time to file this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date